

# What Was in the News in 2009?

## January

- **US Airways Flight 1549** lands in the Hudson River in New York City after birds fly into its engines. Everyone survives the emergency landing.
- Artist **Andrew Wyeth** dies.
- **President Barack Obama** and **Vice President Joe Biden** are inaugurated as the 44th president and 47th vice president of the United States.



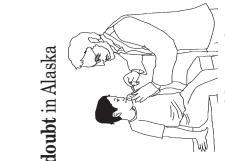
US Airways  
Capt. Chesley  
Sullenberger

## March

- **Mount Redoubt** in Alaska erupts.

## April

- The **swine flu**, also called H1N1, infects its first victims in the United States. Scientists scramble to make a vaccine.



## August

- **Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor** is sworn in. She is the court's first Hispanic justice.



Supreme Court  
Justice Sonia  
Sotomayor

## September

- An **earthquake** near the Samoan Islands in the South Pacific Ocean causes a tsunami. Homes and towns are destroyed.

## October

- The **New York Yankees** win baseball's World Series.

## November

- NASA announces that its **LCROSS** probe found **water on the moon** when it was crashed into a crater there in October.

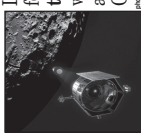


photo courtesy NASA

## May

- Scientists show the fossilized remains of a **47 million-year-old primate** (a mammal similar to humans, apes and monkeys).

## June

- All television stations in the United States begin to broadcast only **digital** signals.

## July

- Singer **Michael Jackson** dies.
- Alaska Gov. **Sarah Palin** resigns.



The Pittsburgh Steelers win Super Bowl XLIII.

## February

- The **Pittsburgh Steelers** win Super Bowl XLIII.
- The U.S. celebrates the 200th birthday of **President Abraham Lincoln**.

## Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and Basset Brown are filling in their new calendar with upcoming events. See if you can find:

- flyswatter
- letter A
- letter D
- ruler
- bell
- umbrella
- tea pot
- carrot
- hot dog
- ice pop
- heart
- letter E
- king's face
- hockey stick
- comb
- word MINI
- question mark

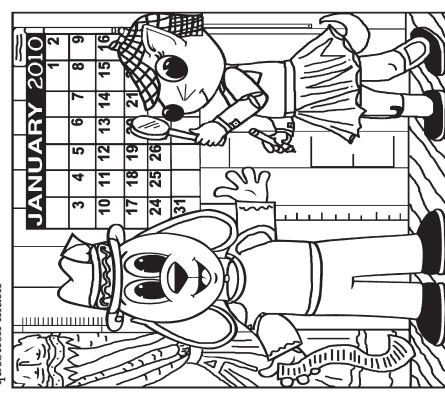


photo courtesy The White House

## Rookie Cookie's Recipe Banana Bites

### You'll need:

- 1 medium-large banana
- 4 heaping tablespoons reduced-fat whipped topping
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 14 to 16 chocolate chips

### What to do:

1. Slice banana into 14 to 16 rounds.
2. Mix together whipped topping and peanut butter until well-blended.
3. Put a small dollop of mixture on top of each banana round.
4. Top each with a chocolate chip.
5. Chill in refrigerator for one hour before serving.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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## Meet Terrance Simien

Terrance Simien plays on the soundtrack for the Disney movie "The Princess and the Frog." One of the fireflies in the movie is based on him.

He has a CD for kids, "Creole for Kids & The History of Zydeco." He works with schools in Louisiana to teach kids about zydeco and the Creole people. **Zydeco** (Zi-duh-ko) is lively music of the Creole people in Louisiana. Terrance, 44, grew up in Louisiana. He learned this special music from many of the early zydeco musicians. He won a Grammy Award for one of his CDs.

Terrance is working on a nonfiction book for kids about the history of zydeco music and Creole culture.



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## MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

**Cathy:** Why are calendars so busy?  
**Casey:** Because they have a date every day!

**Caesar:** What is a calendar's favorite fruit?  
**Charles:** Dates!

**Christopher:** Why did the tired worker tear off part of his calendar?  
**Cookie:** Because he wanted to take a month off!



## Gus Goodsport's report

### Supersport: Brandon Jennings

**Height:** 6-1  
**Weight:** 170  
**Birthdate:** 9-23-89  
**Hometown:** Compton, Calif.

Although he has played fewer than 20 games in the NBA, 19-year-old Brandon Jennings looks like a seasoned pro. As the Milwaukee Bucks starting point guard, Jennings led his team in scoring (22.3 points per game) and assists (6.5 per game) heading into December.

On Nov. 14, he rocked the NBA world with a net-ripping 55-point performance against the Golden State Warriors. And this was after he failed to score in the first quarter. It was the highest single-game output ever by a Milwaukee rookie.

After a sensational prep season at Oak Hill Academy in Virginia, Jennings opted to skip college and play one season of pro ball in Italy. Then, in 2008, the Bucks picked him up in the first round of the NBA draft.

But Jennings didn't have much of a better choice. As the old saying goes, Jennings is the "real deal."



photo courtesy NBA

## TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of the new year are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: ATHLETE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CALENDAR, CANADA, CENTURY, DAY, DECADE, EVENT, FLU, GAMES, MOON, NEW, OLYMPIC, SOCCER, SOUTH AFRICA, SWINE, VANCOUVER, WEEK, WINTER, WORLD CUP, YEAR.

A C I R F A H T U O S K N V G  
W I E G E J B R A D N E L A C  
E P E N S C X V H Q W R M N A  
T M K V T C E D A C E D C N  
E Y O G E U I O J A S T W O A  
L L B O P N R N S Z Y N E U D  
H O F L N W T Y E A R I E V A  
T G R L P U C D L R O W K E Q  
A I B M U L O C H S I T I R B

LET'S CHEER  
A HAPPY NEW  
YEAR!



## More to Explore

The Mini Page provides ideas for Web sites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

**On the Web:**

- [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com)
- [www.iffa.com/worldcup/index.html](http://www.iffa.com/worldcup/index.html)

**At the library:**

- "National Geographic Kids Almanac 2010"
- "A Really Short History of Nearly Everything" by Bill Bryson
- "The Ancient Greek Olympics" by Richard Wolf